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BOOK REVIEWS.

A HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF DEFAMATION AND VERBAL INJURY. By F. T. COOPER, M. A., LL. B. Advocate. Edinburgh: William Green & Sons. 1894. Pages, 319.

This is a Scotch book on slander and libel. The law contained in it is Scotch, and almost all of the citations are from the Scotch reports. The merit of the book is in its arrangement, and the extent to which the alphabetical classification of slanderous and libellous words and phrases is carried. All of the various crimes of which a person may be charged are alphabetically arranged. Various accusations of misbehavior are treated in the same way. Under the letter "T" in one group we find the following, "Treacherous fellow, to call a man a: *Grierson v. Harvey*, 43 Scot. Jur. 190;" "Two faced man, to call a person a, *Cunningham v. Duncan*, 16 R. 383."

The Scotch law seems to be painfully sensitive of personal reputation, and, in vindicating it, goes to lengths which cannot be justified, and which certainly are not paralleled in America and England. Thus it is defamatory to say that a man is a "bad lot," "contemptible," "disgraceful," "infidel," "ignorant of religion," "insolent dogmatist," "irreligious," "a Judas," "Satanic agent," "scoffer at religion," "serpent." You cannot say that your enemy is a "scamp," or a "scoundrel," or that he has "skedaddled;" but you may find some relief in calling him a "puppy," for that is permitted without damages.

Public men are protected to an unusual extent. While sarcasm and ridicule may be used in a mild way, a continued use of these weapons in controversy is actionable. In one case a parliamentary candidate was allowed an issue against the proprietor of a newspaper, who likened him to a "viper" and a "snake in the grass;" and another newspaper was punished for saying of certain public men that they "were sturdy, bold and unblushing repudiators," that "they acted like thimble-riggers—heads I win; tails you lose." When contrasted with the amenities of our press in the treatment of political opponents, these expressions seem mild, and the severity with which they were punished suggests that Scotch

editors have not much chance to cultivate any extensive vituperative vocabulary.

Although Mr. Cooper's book may not be a necessity to the American practitioner, to the student of Scotch life and character and to the student of law in the broad sense, it is a mine of curious and interesting information. A. B. WEIMER.

THE LAW OF VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES, MUTUAL BENEFIT INSURANCE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE. By WILLIAM C. NIBLACK. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. Second Edition. 1894.

This edition is, in many respects, a great improvement on the first, which, as the author himself confesses in the preface to this, was necessarily imperfect, on account of its hurried preparation. The main outlines, however, have been followed; but they have been very much enlarged in detail, as well as enriched by the addition of the numerous cases decided since the first edition. These have been so abundant, as of themselves to authorize the publication of a new edition, even if the work had not stood in need of improvement.

The most valuable feature of the book is its full treatment of the principles of law governing unincorporated associations—a subject generally either disregarded, pushed out of sight in a corner of Insurance, or grudgingly given standing-room under Corporations, where it does not belong. Yet the growth of such societies has been so rapid, and some of them have attained such numerical, social, and even political strength, that they deserve a separate department of legal literature. But so long as this is denied them, (Stevick on Unincorporated Associations, a mere essay, being the only independent work thereon that has come to the writer's notice,) they can nowhere be treated of so well as in a work on this subject. Realizing that fact, the author has stated the general principles governing their formation and management, though, in many respects, these are but the merest incidents of the subject of insurance.

The author's statements of the law are clear, precise and positive,—a most excellent feature in a text-book, the proper